



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
4511 US Highway 31S  
Decatur, AL 35603

#E1-2833  
UW

January 16, 2007

Diana Wood  
Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit  
Washington, DC 20423

**RE:** Project: Docket No. AB-192 (Sub-No. 2X)  
Jefferson County, Alabama

Dear Diana Wood:

According to the Jefferson County Soil Survey, the area of interest indicated on your map for abandonment and discontinuance is not considered "Prime Farmland" as defined in Appendix A of Department Regulation No. DR 9500-3 dated March 22, 1983; and also, **does not** meet the prime farmland criteria set forth by the Prime Farmland Policy Act (FPPA) and Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) of June 22, 1982.

In addition, according to the Jefferson County Soil Survey, the area of interest site does not contain hydric soils that meet the definition for wetland criteria, as required by 180-V-NFSAM Third Edition, Amend 2, November 1996 part 513.11.a.

NRCS primary concerns with this project are the possible soil erosion and possible water quality impacts during salvage activities. A part of Short Creek that flows directly into Locust Fork is immediately down slope from the area of abandonment. Erosion and sediment control measures should be implemented and maintained during the salvage activities to protect land, water, and related resources. Plans for salvage activities should include erosion control practices, including coverage of bare soil as soon as possible by temporary and permanent vegetation and structures.

If you have anymore questions, please call Christopher Ford, Resource Soil Scientist, at (256) 353-6146 ext. 107.

Sincerely,

Christopher Ford  
Resource Soil Scientist